

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Colombia
Program Title:	Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	514-007
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$32,000,000 ACI
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$25,000,000 ACI
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2000
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID seeks to fortify Latin America's oldest democracy through a multi-faceted strategy which includes technical assistance and training to: modernize the criminal justice system; enhance and broaden respect for human rights; strengthen local governance; increase government transparency and accountability; and support the peace process.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Support the modernization of the justice system and increase access to legal services (\$8,900,000 INC). USAID will continue to fund technical assistance to help transition Colombia's judicial system from an inquisitorial to an accusatorial system. At least 12 oral trial courtrooms will be established and training for judges, lawyers, and other judicial workers will continue. To increase access to justice, USAID will continue to work with the Ministry of Justice to expand coverage through the Justice and Peace Houses -- community-based centers for alternative dispute resolution and other legal services. USAID will provide assistance to equip the Houses, train staff, and conduct community outreach and education. The prime contractor is Checchi and Company.

Promote respect for human rights, prevent abuses, and protect against violations (\$5,700,000 INC). To increase the protection and defense of human rights, USAID assistance will focus on the prevention of human rights violations by strengthening GOC and civil society human rights entities; by providing protection for journalists, human rights workers, community leaders and local elected officials, including the provision of metal detectors, bulletproof vests, hand held radios, etc., and national or international relocation; and by improving the GOC's response to human rights violations. USAID will continue providing technical assistance to the Interior Ministry to improve its human rights protection program. Support for the implementation of the Early Warning System (EWS) as a means of preventing forced displacement and massacres will also continue. USAID will also provide technical assistance to the Office of the Vice-President (Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law) to formulate policy, monitor cases, and improve its ability to coordinate critical activities with other GOC agencies and civil society. USAID will continue to work with non-governmental organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights in Colombia. The prime contractor is Management Sciences for Development, with the Organization of American States and Junior Achievement as sub-grantees.

Strengthen democratic governance and practices at the local level (\$8,000,000 INC). USAID will enhance the capacity of local governments to deliver services, manage resources, increase citizen participation in planning and project oversight, and provide infrastructure in response to citizen priorities. Goals will be achieved through direct technical assistance, training, and the implementation of social infrastructure projects in target municipalities. Oversight committees comprised of local citizens will be organized in each municipality where an infrastructure project is completed. The prime grantee is Associates in Rural Development and Partners of the Americas is the sub-grantee.

Increase transparency and accountability at all levels of government (\$4,100,000 INC). USAID will finance technical assistance and training to increase and improve financial management controls and audits across relevant GOC entities at the national and local levels. In FY 2003, a cumulative total of 14 GOC entities will have standardized internal control procedures. Concurrently, support will be provided to citizen groups in 20 municipalities to strengthen their oversight of public resources. The prime contractor is Casals and Associates.

Promote peace (\$5,300,000 INC). USAID will continue to promote peace in Colombia by supporting initiatives designed to cultivate a culture of non-violence. Efforts will include providing support to organizations which work with Afro-Colombians and indigenous groups. USAID will support the establishment of roughly seven community co-existence centers in poor and marginalized regions. These centers provide outside administrative and legal assistance on site, educational opportunities, and much-needed physical infrastructure and space for grassroots organizing. The prime implementer is the International Organization for Migration.

FY 2004 Program:

Support the modernization of the justice system and increase access to justice (\$6,900,000 INC). Justice activities to modernize and increase access to justice will be expanded. Additional oral trial courtrooms and Justice and Peace Houses will be established.

Promote respect for human rights, prevent abuses, and protect against future violations (\$4,700,000 INC). Human rights activities and protection against violations will continue. The EWS coordination offices will be expanded to two additional regions.

Strengthen democratic governance and practices at the local level (\$9,000,000 INC). Local governance strengthening activities will expand considerably. Approximately 100 social infrastructure projects will be created in an additional 60 municipalities. Citizen oversight committees will be established in each municipality in which a new project is established.

Increase transparency and accountability at all levels of government (\$1,600,000 INC). Anti-corruption activities will grow. A total of 20 GOC entities will have established internal controls.

Promote peace (\$2,800,000 INC). Peace activities will continue and support for local organizations will grow. Additional co-existence centers will be established in target areas and organizations active in promoting peace in Colombia will be supported.

Performance and Results: USAID's democracy program has significantly increased access to justice and has successfully protected and promoted human rights, strengthened local governance and infrastructure, promoted transparent and accountable governance and supported key peace initiatives. Twenty-one Justice and Peace Houses have been established, handling 1.4 million cases. As a first step in facilitating Colombia's transition to a modern accusatorial system of justice, USAID helped to establish 13 oral trial courtrooms and 3,400 judges have been trained in oral trials, legal evidence, and procedures. The protection component under the human rights program expanded to include protection for mayors, local human rights officials, and journalists. Through FY 2002, approximately 3,000 individuals received protection. The EWS was expanded to 12 regions and was key to coordinating effective responses to 116 of the 121 alerts issued in FY 2002. The local governance program promoted efficient and transparent management practices at the local level by helping finance 66 social infrastructure projects in 27 municipalities. Transparency and citizen participation have been reinforced through the establishment of 71 citizen oversight committees. To promote transparency and accountability, USAID completed a nationwide anticorruption campaign that reached six million citizens and standardized internal control units in five GOC agencies. Finally, under the peace program, USAID-funded activities included grants to support the participation of women in the peace process, assistance and training to 34 non-governmental organizations, and the establishment of an information resource center within the office of the High Commissioner for Peace. Nearly 90,000 persons benefited from the peace program.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Colombia

514-007 Democracy	ACI	Plan Colombia
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	0	47,000
Expenditures	0	9,878
Unliquidated	0	37,122
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	28,000	0
Expenditures	0	18,836
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	28,000	47,000
Expenditures	0	28,714
Unliquidated	28,000	18,286
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	32,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	32,000	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	25,000	0
Future Obligations	25,000	0
Est. Total Cost	110,000	47,000